

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03724 071738Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /071 W

-----081733 071740Z /43

O P 071630Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7163

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3724

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

BRUSSELS FOR THE SECRETARY AND DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH US UK ZA

SUBJ: RHODESIA: WHERE KAUNDA STANDS TODAY

1. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE POSITION WHICH KAUNDA
TOOK IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY HAS BEEN INTERPRETED
SOMEWHAT MORE NEGATIVELY THAN HE INTENDED. HE WAS NOT
OPTING OUT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL, OR OUT OF FURTHER
DISCUSSION OF ITS PROVISIONS, OR EVEN OUT OF EVENTUAL
SUPPORT FOR IT. AS MARK CHONA MADE CLEAR TO ME A NUMBER
OF TIMES ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, THE PRESIDENT IS
SIMPLY WITHDRAWING FROM THE DEBATE OVER THE ELECTIONS
ISSUE. HIS VIEWS HAVE NOT CHANGED; HE REMAINS
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UNCONVINCED THAT ELECTIONS CAN BE HELD WITHOUT BLOODSHED.
BUT HE IS BOWING TO THE OPINION OF OTHERS AND THE NEED
TO MOVE AHEAD. HE REMAINS SKEPTICAL THAT THE PROPOSALS
WILL IN THE END GET RID OF SMITH, BUT HE DOES NOT WANT
TO STAND IN THE WAY OF ANY ATTEMPT TO DO SO.

2. THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN ORDER FOR THE

PRESIDENT TO MAKE A RECORD OF HIS VIEWS. LATER HE CAN
TURN TO THEM AND SAY "I TOLD YOU SO", AND IF THINGS DO
NOT GO WELL, HE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO SUPPORT NKOMO
AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BECAUSE HE PREDICTED THE PROBLEMS.

3. DAVID OWEN PROVIDED A RED HERRING FOR KAUNDA. BLAMING
AND CONDEMNING OWEN PROVIDED A DISTRACTION WHILE HE BACKED
AWAY FROM A POSITION WHICH HAD BEEN WIDELY ATTACKED,
EVEN BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE FRONTLINE, AND IT WAS EASIER
TO BLAME OWEN THAN NYERERE.

4. KAUNDA WILL REMAIN DISTANT FROM THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
PROPOSALS AS LONG AS HE BELIEVES THAT SMITH REMAINS ITS
FINAL ARBITER. HE HAS EVEN RESERVED THE RIGHT TO CONDEMN
IT AT SOME LATER DATE. IN OUR VIEW, KAUNDA ATTEMPTED
TO IMPOSE ON THE INITIATIVE AND HIS FL COLLEAGUES A NEW
LINE DESIGNED TO PRODUCE A FRELIMO TYPE SOLUTION IN
RHODESIA WHICH WOULD TURN OVER POWER DIRECTLY TO THE
PF. HE FAILED IN THIS AND HE RECOGNIZES
THAT FACT. HE HAS WITHDRAWN TO LICK HIS WOUNDS AND
WILL REJOIN HIS FL COLLEAGUES' POSITION ON THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN INITIATIVE BUT HE WILL GIVE IT NO MORE
COOPERATION THAN HE HAS IN THE PAST UNTIL HE BELIEVES
THAT IT CAN DELIVER SMITH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA03724
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770454-1506
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771283/aaaacsvd.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: RHODESIA: WHERE KAUNDA STANDS TODAY
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK, ZA, (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
To: STATE BRUSSELS
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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